Supporting Information

Palladium(II)-Catalyzed 1,3-Heteroaryl Acyloxylation of Propargylic Electrophiles

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I. General

¹H, ¹³C and ¹⁹F NMR spectra were acquired on Joel (600 MHz) or Bruker (400 MHz) instruments in indicated deuterated solvents. ¹H NMR chemical shifts were recorded relative to residual protic solvents (CDCl₃: δ 7.26). Multiplicities were given as: s (singlet), d (doublet), t (triplet), q (quartet) and m (multiplet). The number of protons (n) for a given resonance was indicated by nH. Coupling constants were reported as a *J* value in Hz. ¹³C NMR chemical shifts were recorded relative to solvent resonance (CDCl₃: δ 77.16, CD₃CN: δ 118.26 ± 0.02, 1.32 ± 0.02). ¹⁹F NMR chemical shifts were uncorrected.

Unless noted otherwise, commercially available chemicals and solvents were used as received without purification. Flash chromatography was packed with silica gel as the stationary phase. High resolution mass spectra (HRMS) were recorded on a Waters G2-XS QTof spectrometer with ESI mode unless otherwise stated.

II. Optimization of conditions

General procedure for solvent screening: in an argon-filled glovebox, $Pd(acac)_2$ (1.2 mg, 0.004 mmol), $P(2-furyl)_3$ (1.1 mg, 0.0048 mmol) and 0.1 mL of solvent were charged into an oven-dried 4-mL vial. After stirring for about 15 minutes at rt, *N*-methylindole (19 µL, 0.15 mmol), formic acid (0.8 µL, 0.02 mmol) and propargylic acetate **1a** (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added sequentially to the reaction mixture. The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the reaction mixture was directly evaporated under the reduced pressure. The crude product was then subjected to ¹H NMR to determine the conversion and yield using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.



Table S1 . Solv	vent screening
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entry	solvent	conversion of 1a	yield of 3a (Z/E)	yield of 3a'
1	DCM	42%	0%	0%
2	toluene	41%	0%	0%
3	MTBE	39%	0%	0%
4	DME	14%	0%	0%
5	1,4-dioxane	24%	0%	0%
6	MeCN	28%	0%	0%
7	DMF	16%	0%	0%

8	O Me∼ <mark>N N</mark> ∽Me	20%	0%	0%
9	DMSO	58%	0%	0%
10	O O Me	60%	0%	0%
11	MeOH	66%	0%	0%
12	<i>i</i> -PrOH	28%	0%	0%
13	t-BuOH	14%	0%	0%
14	CF ₃ CH ₂ OH	100%	77% (>20:1)	0%
15	(CF ₃) ₂ CHOH	100%	86% (>20:1)	0%

General procedure for the studies of Pd catalysts: in an argon-filled glovebox, palladium catalyst (0.004 mmol), $P(2-furyl)_3$ (1.1 mg, 0.0048 mmol) and 0.1 mL of 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropanol (HFIP) were charged into an oven-dried 4-mL vial. After stirring for about 15 minutes at rt, *N*-methylindole (19 µL, 0.15 mmol), formic acid (0.8 µL, 0.02 mmol) and propargylic acetate **1a** (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added sequentially to the reaction mixture. The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the reaction mixture was directly evaporated under the reduced pressure. The crude product was then subjected to ¹H NMR to determine the conversion and yield using CH₂Br₂ as the internal standard.



Ph

Table S2. The effect of palladium source

entry	Pd catalyst	conversion of 1a	yield of 3a	yield of 3a'
1	PdCl ₂	100%	0%	27%
2	Pd(OAc) ₂	100%	19%	3%
3	Pd(TFA) ₂	100%	63%	0%
4	Pd(acac) ₂	100%	86%	0%
5	Pd(hfacac) ₂	100%	72%	0%
6	Pd(cod)Cl ₂	100%	79%	0%
7	Pd(MeCN)Cl ₂	100%	79%	0%
8	Pd(PPh ₃) ₄	95%	0%	22%
9	Pd(dba) ₂	100%	13%	20%

General procedure for the studies of phosphine ligands: in an argon-filled glovebox, $Pd(acac)_2$ (1.2 mg, 0.004 mmol), phosphine ligand (0.0048 mmol) and 0.1 mL of HFIP were charged into an oven-dried 4-mL vial. After stirring for about 15 minutes at rt, *N*-methylindole (19 µL, 0.15 mmol), formic acid (0.8 µL, 0.02 mmol) and propargylic acetate **1a** (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added sequentially to the reaction mixture. The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the reaction mixture was directly evaporated under the reduced pressure. The crude product was then subjected to ¹H NMR to determine the conversion and yield using 1,3,5-trimethoxybenzene as the internal standard.



Table S3. The effect of phosphine ligands

entry	ligand	conversion of 1a	yield of 3a (Z/E)	yield of 3a'
1	P(2-furyl) ₃	100%	86% (>20:1)	0%
2	P(2-thiophenyl) ₃	100%	51% (5:1)	25%
3	PPh ₃	100%	0%	19%
4	$P(4-MeOC_6H_4)_3$	100%	32% (1.2:1)	18%
5	PCy ₃	100%	49% (10:1)	29%
6	bpy	97%	0%	11%
7	phen	96%	0%	12%

General procedure for the studies of additives: in an argon-filled glove box, Pd(acac)₂ (24.5 mg, 0.08 mmol), P(2-furyl)₃ (22.3 mg, 0.096 mmol) and 2 mL of (CF₃)₂CHOH were charged into an oven-dried 8-mL vial. After stirring for about 30 minutes at rt, the yellow solution of Pd complex was ready for use.

To another oven-dried 4-mL vial, 0.1 mL of the Pd complex (0.004 mmol, 4 mol%) from the stock solution was added under argon, followed by the sequential addition of *N*-methylindole (19 μ L, 0.15 mmol), the additive and propargylic acetate (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol). The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the reaction mixture was directly evaporated under the reduced pressure. The crude product was then subjected to ¹H NMR to determine the conversion and yield using CH₂Br₂ as the internal standard.

Result: Formic acid (20 mol%) was needed to afford the desired product in the optimal yield (84%). Furthermore, the prepared Pd complex (4 mol%) provided the same result as the in-situ generated Pd catalyst in this reaction.



Table S4. The influence of additives

entry	additive	conversion of 1a	yield of 3a	yield of 3a'
1	HCO ₂ Na (1.2 equiv)	100%	51%	13%
2	HCO ₂ K (1.2 equiv)	100%	66%	16%
3	HCO ₂ NH ₄ (1.2 equiv)	100%	47%	31%
4	HCO ₂ H (1.2 equiv)	100%	86%	0%
5	HCO ₂ H (20 mol%)	100%	86%	0%
6	PhCO ₂ H (20 mol%)	100%	65%	0%
7	TsOH·H ₂ O (20 mol%)	100%	71%	8%
8	AcOH (20 mol%)	100%	49%	25%
9	PivOH (20 mol%)	100%	38%	8%
10	none	100%	54%	20%

III. General procedure for 1,3-heteroaryl acyloxylation of propargylic electrophiles

(A) The procedure for reactions in the scope of heteroarenes: Unless otherwise stated, the procedure was as follows. In an argon-filled glove box, $Pd(acac)_2$ (24.5 mg, 0.08 mmol), $P(2-furyl)_3$ (22.3 mg, 0.096 mmol) and 2 mL of (CF₃)₂CHOH were charged into an oven-dried 8-mL vial. After stirring for about 30 minutes at rt, the yellow solution of Pd complex was ready for use.

To another oven-dried 4-mL vial, 0.1 mL of the Pd complex (0.004 mmol, 4 mol%) from the stock solution was added under argon, followed by the sequential addition of heteroarene (0.15 mmol), formic acid (0.8 μ L, 0.02 mmol) and propargylic acetate **1a** (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol). The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the crude reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography on silica using ethyl acetate/hexanes as eluent.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3a)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 29 mg, 86% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.17 (m, 5H), 7.05 (t, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (s, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 3.72 (s, 3H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.0, 145.1, 137.8, 136.6, 128.5, 128.1, 126.7, 126.5, 124.8, 124.5, 123.7, 121.5, 121.2, 118.8, 109.3, 35.9, 32.7, 29.2, 20.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 356.1626; found: 356.1620.



(Z)-3-(5-Bromo-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3b)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as yellow oil. 29 mg, 71% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.91 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.38 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.16 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 3.73 (s, 3H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 145.4, 136.4, 128.6, 128.3, 128.2, 125.93, 125.88, 124.9, 124.4, 123.6, 123.2, 112.3, 110.8, 35.8, 32.8, 29.4, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₂⁷⁹BrNO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 434.0726; found: 434.0729.



(Z)-3-(5-Chloro-1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3c)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as yellow oil. 30 mg, 81% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.71 (d, *J* = 1.9 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.22 (m, 3H), 7.18-7.12 (m, 2H), 6.86 (s, 1H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 3.70 (s, 3H), 1.84 (s, 3H), 1.62 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 145.4, 136.4, 136.2, 128.6, 128.2, 127.6, 126.0, 125.9, 124.9, 124.6, 123.2, 121.8, 120.6, 110.3, 35.8, 32.9, 29.4, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₂ClNO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 390.1237; found: 390.1242.



(Z)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3d)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:8) as yellow oil. 30 mg, 95% yield.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, J = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.34 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.19 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, J = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.1, 145.3, 137.1, 136.5, 128.6, 128.1, 126.32, 126.29, 125.2, 124.8, 121.9, 121.2, 119.6, 119.3, 111.3, 35.8, 29.2, 20.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₂₁NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 342.1470; found: 342.1479.



(Z)-3-(1-Isopropyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3e)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 31 mg, 86% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.29 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.21 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (s, 1H), 6.06 (s, 1H), 4.68 (hept, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 1H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 6H), 1.54 (d, *J* = 6.7 Hz, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.0, 145.1, 136.62, 136.60, 128.5, 128.0, 126.8, 126.6, 124.8, 123.7, 121.3, 121.1, 119.0, 118.7, 109.5, 46.9, 36.0, 29.3, 22.9, 20.7.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₄H₂₇NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 384.1934; found: 384.1935.



(Z)-3-(5-Cyano-1H-indol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3f)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:5) as yellow oil. 23 mg, 68% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.38 (s, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.27 (m, 7H), 7.12 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.96 (s, 1H), 1.81 (s, 3H), 1.65 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.8, 145.9, 138.8, 136.0, 128.7, 128.5, 126.8, 126.2, 126.0, 125.3, 124.90, 124.86, 121.8, 121.1, 112.2, 102.4, 35.6, 29.5, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₀N₂O₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 367.1417; found: 367.1418.



Methyl (Z)-3-(4-acetoxy-2-methyl-4-phenylbut-3-en-2-yl)-1H-indole-5-carboxylate (3g)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:5) as yellow oil. 34 mg, 89% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.56 (s, 1H), 8.29 (s, 1H), 7.81 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 2H), 7.26-7.17 (m, 4H), 6.98 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.00 (s, 1H), 3.89 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 168.4, 145.7, 139.8, 136.4, 128.6, 128.2, 126.2, 126.0, 125.9, 125.0, 124.1, 123.3, 121.4, 121.1, 111.0, 51.9, 35.8, 29.6, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{23}H_{23}NO_4Na$ [M+Na]⁺: 400.1519; found: 400.1519.



(Z)-3-Methyl-1-phenyl-3-[5-(trifluoromethyl)-1*H*-indol-3-yl]but-1-en-1-yl acetate (3h)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as yellow oil. 29 mg, 75% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.20 (s, 1H), 8.12 (s, 1H), 7.42-7.36 (m, 4H), 7.31-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.09 (d, J = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.0, 145.7, 138.5 (q, $J_{CF} = 1.2$ Hz), 136.5, 128.6, 128.3, 125.9, 125.8, 125.7, 125.6 (q, $J_{CF} = 271.7$ Hz), 125.0, 121.7 (q, $J_{CF} = 31.5$ Hz), 121.4, 118.8 (q, $J_{CF} = 4.5$ Hz), 118.7 (q, $J_{CF} = 3.5$ Hz), 111.5, 35.8, 29.4, 20.5.

¹⁹F NMR (564.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -60.0.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₀F₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 410.1338; found: 410.1342.



(Z)-3-(5-Methoxy-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3i)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as brown oil. 25 mg, 72% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.20 (m, 5H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.84 (dd, *J* = 8.8, 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 3.81 (s, 3H), 1.93 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.2, 153.6, 145.1, 136.7, 132.2, 128.6, 128.1, 126.7, 126.2, 124.91, 124.86, 120.2, 112.1, 111.9, 103.0, 56.0, 35.9, 28.9, 20.7.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NO₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 372.1570; found: 372.1572.



(Z)-3-Methyl-1-phenyl-3-[5-(trifluoromethoxy)-1*H*-indol-3-yl]but-1-en-1-yl acetate (3j)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as yellow oil. 29 mg, 72% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.07 (s, 1H), 7.67 (s, 1H), 7.37-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.29 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 1H), 7.07 (d, J = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (d, J = 8.8 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (s, 1H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.0, 145.6, 142.6 (q, $J_{CF} = 2.1$ Hz), 136.5, 135.4, 128.6, 128.3, 126.5, 125.7, 125.5, 124.9, 121.6, 121.0 (q, $J_{CF} = 255.2$ Hz), 115.9, 113.7, 111.8, 35.7, 29.2, 20.5.

¹⁹F NMR (564.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -58.0.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₀F₃NO₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 426.1287; found: 426.1291.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(5-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3k)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as yellow oil. 27 mg, 81% yield in CF_3CH_2OH . When HFIP was used as solvent, **3k** was obtained in 61% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.85 (s, 1H), 7.58 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.02 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 6.96 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.04 (s, 1H), 2.45 (s, 3H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.2, 145.2, 136.6, 135.5, 128.5, 128.3, 128.1, 126.5, 126.4, 124.9, 124.6, 123.5, 120.8, 119.8, 110.9, 35.9, 29.2, 21.8, 20.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 356.1621; found: 356.1622.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(4-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3l)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as yellow oil. 27 mg, 81% yield in CF₃CH₂OH.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.98 (s, 1H), 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.07 (m, 2H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.12 (s, 1H), 2.76 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 6H), 1.55 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 144.9, 138.2, 136.4, 131.1, 128.6, 128.2, 128.0, 125.9, 125.2, 124.6, 122.2, 122.0, 120.4, 108.9, 35.7, 31.6, 23.1, 19.9.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 356.1621; found: 356.1622.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(3-methyl-1*H*-indol-2-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3m)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 24 mg, 73% yield in CF₃CH₂OH.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.10 (br s, NH), 7.51 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.40-7.38 (m, 2H), 7.35-7.32 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.14-7.08 (m, 2H), 5.94 (s, 1H), 2.36 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 6H), 1.60 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 146.4, 139.3, 136.0, 134.3, 130.4, 128.7, 128.4, 125.0, 124.8, 121.2, 119.1, 118.1, 110.4, 106.3, 36.9, 28.9, 20.1, 10.1.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 356.1621; found: 356.1623.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(2-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3n)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as yellow oil. 26 mg, 79% yield in CF₃CH₂OH.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (s, 1H), 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.31 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 2H), 7.27-7.24 (m, 1H), 7.22 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.02 (m, 2H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 2.46 (s, 3H), 1.78 (s, 6H), 1.45 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.7, 145.6, 136.4, 135.1, 131.1, 128.6, 128.5, 128.1, 128.0, 124.6, 120.8, 120.4, 119.1, 117.9, 110.3, 37.0, 30.5, 19.9, 15.0.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 356.1621; found: 356.1623.



(Z)-3-(1H-Benzo[g]indol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (30)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 21 mg, 57% yield in CF₃CH₂OH.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.64 (s, 1H), 7.96 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.88 (t, *J* = 9.2 Hz, 2H), 7.51-7.45 (m, 2H), 7.42-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.30-7.23 (m, 3H), 7.04 (d, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 1.80 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.1, 145.4, 136.5, 131.7, 130.3, 128.9, 128.6, 128.2, 127.1, 126.3, 125.4, 124.8,

124.1, 122.4, 121.9, 121.0, 120.1, 119.4, 117.7, 35.9, 29.6, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₅H₂₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 392.1621; found: 392.1624.



(Z)-3-(5-Methoxythiophen-2-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3p)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:25) as yellow oil. 16 mg, 51% yield in CF_3CH_2OH .

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.38-7.36 (m, 2H), 7.33-7.27 (m, 3H), 6.48 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (d, *J* = 3.9 Hz, 1H), 5.82 (s, 1H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 2.08 (s, 3H), 1.56 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 164.6, 146.0, 140.7, 136.3, 128.6, 128.3, 125.8, 124.9, 119.4, 102.8, 60.4, 38.4, 30.9, 20.9.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₈H₂₀O₃SNa [M+Na]⁺: 339.1025; found: 339.1029.



(Z)-3-(5-Methylfuran-2-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3q)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:50) as yellow oil. 20 mg, 71% yield in HFIP.

¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 5.93 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.84 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.80 (s, 1H), 2.26 (s, 3H), 1.99 (s, 3H), 1.49 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.8, 159.4, 150.8, 145.7, 136.2, 128.6, 128.2, 124.8, 124.5, 105.7, 103.9, 36.6,

28.2, 20.8, 13.7.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₈H₂₀O₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 307.1305; found: 307.1302.



The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:30) as yellow oil. 18 mg, 64% yield in CF₃CH₂OH. The ratio of C2- and C3-isomers was determined to be 2:1 by crude ¹H NMR. The two isomers were separated by silica gel.

(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-2-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (major, 3r)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.30 (m, 2H), 7.27 (t, *J* = 6.8 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (t, *J* = 2.2 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (t, *J* = 3.2 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (dd, *J* = 3.6, 2.0 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 3.62 (s, 3H), 1.83 (s, 3H), 1.55 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 146.1, 139.0, 135.9, 128.7, 128.3, 124.9, 124.6, 123.3, 106.2, 104.8, 35.9, 35.4, 29.7, 20.5.

(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1H-pyrrol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (minor, 3r')

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.37 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 6.52 (t, *J* = 2.5 Hz, 1H), 6.46 (t, *J* = 2.1 Hz, 1H), 6.10 (t, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.86 (s, 1H), 3.61 (s, 3H), 2.06 (s, 3H), 1.49 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.2, 144.5, 136.7, 133.4, 128.5, 128.0, 127.4, 124.7, 121.5, 118.0, 106.8, 36.2, 35.5, 30.3, 20.8.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₈H₂₁NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 306.1464; found: 306.1466.



(Z)-3-(2,5-Dimethylpyrrol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3s)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 21 mg, 71% yield in CF₃CH₂OH.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.40 (s, NH), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.91 (s, 1H), 5.78 (s, 1H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.18 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.47 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.8, 144.9, 136.6, 128.6, 127.9, 127.6, 126.8, 124.5, 123.3, 122.0, 105.0, 34.9,

29.9, 20.6, 13.2, 13.0. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₂₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 320.1621; found: 320.1621.



(Z)-3-Methyl-1-phenyl-3-(1,2,5-trimethylpyrrol-3-yl)-but-1-en-1-yl acetate (3t)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 19 mg, 61% yield in CF₃CH₂OH.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 2H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 5.81 (s, 1H), 3.32 (s, 3H), 2.20 (s, 3H), 2.17 (s, 3H), 1.94 (s, 3H), 1.48 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.8, 144.7, 136.7, 128.5, 127.9, 127.8, 126.2, 125.1, 124.5, 124.0, 103.6, 35.0, 29.9, 20.6, 12.5, 12.0.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₂₅NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 334.1777; found: 334.1778.



(Z)-3-[4-(Dimethylamino)-2-methoxyphenyl]-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3u)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as yellow oil. 25 mg, 71% yield in CF₃CH₂OH.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.19 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 6.31-6.29 (m, 2H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 3.80 (s, 3H), 2.93 (s, 6H), 1.72 (s, 3H), 1.53 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.7, 158.8, 150.8, 143.7, 136.9, 128.4, 127.5, 126.3, 125.4, 124.4, 104.5, 98.2, 55.5, 41.1, 37.2, 29.0, 20.4.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₇NO₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 376.1883; found: 376.1885.



(Z)-3-[4-(Dimethylamino)phenyl]-3-methyl-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (3v)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 21 mg, 65% yield in HFIP.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.36 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.27 (m, 4H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 1H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 9.0 Hz, 2H), 5.88 (s, 1H), 2.92 (s, 6H), 1.89 (s, 3H), 1.52 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.0, 149.0, 145.3, 137.3, 136.6, 128.5, 128.0, 127.4, 126.8, 124.7, 112.8, 41.0, 39.2, 30.1, 20.7.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{21}H_{26}NO_2$ [M+H]⁺: 324.1958; found: 324.1955.

(B) The procedure for reactions in the scope of substituted propargylic acetates: Unless otherwise stated, the procedure was as follows. In an argon-filled glove box, $Pd(acac)_2$ (24.5 mg, 0.08 mmol), $P(2-furyl)_3$ (22.3 mg, 0.096 mmol) and 2 mL of trifluoroethanol were charged into an oven-dried 8-mL vial. After stirring for about 30 minutes at rt, the yellow solution of Pd complex was ready for use.

To another oven-dried 4-mL vial, 0.1 mL of the Pd complex (0.004 mmol, 4 mol%) from the stock solution was added under argon, followed by the sequential addition of 1*H*-indole (17.6 mg, 0.15 mmol), formic acid (0.8 μ L, 0.02 mmol) and substituted propargylic acetate (0.1 mmol). The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the crude reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography on silica using ethyl acetate/hexanes as eluent.



(Z)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-1-(4-methoxyphenyl)-3-methylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (4a)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:5) as white solid. 31 mg, 89% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.80 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.35-7.33 (m, 1H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 5.92 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.2, 159.6, 145.0, 137.1, 129.2, 126.3, 126.2, 125.3, 124.6, 121.8, 121.2, 119.5, 119.2, 114.0, 111.3, 55.4, 35.7, 29.3, 20.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NO₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 372.1570; found: 372.1573.



(Z)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-(p-tolyl)-but-1-en-1-yl acetate (4b)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as brown oil. 27 mg, 81% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.93 (s, 1H), 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.26 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 2H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10-7.07 (m, 3H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 2.32 (s, 3H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.2, 145.4, 138.0, 137.1, 133.7, 129.2, 126.3, 125.4, 125.3, 124.7, 121.9, 121.2, 119.5, 119.3, 111.2, 35.8, 29.2, 21.2, 20.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 356.1626; found: 356.1611.



(Z)-1-(Benzo[d][1,3]dioxol-5-yl)-3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-3-methylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (4c)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:5) as brown oil. 29 mg, 80% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 2.3 Hz, 1H), 6.87-6.85 (m, 2H), 6.72 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (s, 2H), 5.89 (s, 1H), 1.87 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.1, 147.9, 147.6, 144.9, 137.1, 131.0, 126.3, 125.2, 121.9, 121.1, 119.5, 119.3, 118.8, 111.3, 108.3, 105.6, 101.3, 35.8, 29.2, 20.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₂H₂₁NO₄Na [M+Na]⁺: 386.1363; found: 386.1367.



(Z)-1-(4-Fluorophenyl)-3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-3-methylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (4d)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:5) as yellow oil. 27 mg, 81% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.78 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.36-7.32 (m, 3H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00-6.96 (m, 3H), 5.95 (s, 1H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.1, 162.6 (d, J_{CF} = 247.4 Hz), 144.4, 137.1, 132.8 (d, J_{CF} = 3.3 Hz), 126.7 (d, J_{CF} = 8.3 Hz), 126.3, 126.2 (d, J_{CF} = 1.6 Hz), 125.1, 122.0, 121.1, 119.5, 119.3, 115.5 (d, J_{CF} = 21.7 Hz), 111.3, 35.8, 29.2, 20.6.

¹⁹F NMR (564.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -113.9.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₂₀FNO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 360.1370; found: 360.1374.



(Z)-1-(4-Bromophenyl)-3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-3-methylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (4e)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:5) as yellow oil. 33 mg, 83% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (s, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.19 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.00 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 1.88 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.0, 144.4, 137.1, 135.6, 131.7, 127.0, 126.5, 126.2, 125.0, 122.05, 121.98, 121.0, 119.5, 119.4, 111.3, 35.9, 29.1, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₂₀⁷⁹BrNO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 420.0570; found: 420.0569.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)but-1-en-1-yl acetate (4f)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:40) as yellow oil. 28 mg, 70% yield in HFIP.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.31 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.10 (s, 1H), 3.77 (s, 3H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 144.0, 140.1 (q, J_{CF} = 1.5 Hz), 137.8, 129.9 (q, J_{CF} = 32.5 Hz), 128.8, 126.6, 125.6 (q, J_{CF} = 4.1 Hz), 125.1, 124.5, 123.3, 121.6, 121.0, 118.9, 109.4, 100.0, 36.0, 32.7, 29.1, 20.5. ¹⁹F NMR (564.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -62.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₃H₂₂F₃NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 424.1495; found: 424.1496.



Methyl (Z)-4-(1-acetoxy-3-methyl-3-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)but-1-en-1-yl)benzoate (4g)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:30) as yellow oil. 32 mg, 82% yield in HFIP.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.95 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.87 (s, 1H), 6.13 (s, 1H), 3.90 (s, 3H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.91 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.9, 166.8, 144.3, 140.9, 137.8, 129.9, 129.5, 128.8, 126.6, 124.6, 124.5, 123.3, 121.6, 121.1, 118.9, 109.4, 52.2, 36.1, 32.7, 29.1, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₄H₂₅NO₄Na [M+Na]⁺: 414.1676; found: 414.1679.



(Z)-1-(4-Benzoylphenyl)-3-methyl-3-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)but-1-en-1-yl acetate (4h)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as pale-yellow oil. 32 mg, 74% yield in HFIP.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77-7.75 (m, 3H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.57 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.47 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.46 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.30 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 6.17 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.92 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 196.1, 168.9, 144.3, 140.4, 137.8, 137.7, 136.8, 132.5, 130.5, 130.1, 128.9, 128.4, 126.6, 124.54, 124.48, 123.3, 121.6, 121.1, 118.9, 109.4, 36.1, 32.7, 29.1, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₉H₂₈NO₃ [M+H]⁺: 438.2064; found: 438.2067.



(Z)-3-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-3-methyl-1-(thiophen-3-yl)but-1-en-1-yl acetate (4i)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as brown oil. 24 mg, 74% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.77 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.23 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 3.0 Hz, 1H), 7.18 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.12 (dd, *J* = 5.1, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.05 (dd, *J* = 3.0, 1.2 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.99 (s, 1H), 1.86 (s, 3H), 1.66 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.2, 141.5, 138.3, 137.1, 126.4, 126.2, 125.5, 124.94, 124.92, 121.9, 121.2, 120.3, 119.6, 119.3, 111.3, 35.7, 29.2, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₉NO₂SNa [M+Na]⁺: 348.1029; found: 348.1031.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-(naphthalen-2-yl)but-1-en-1-yl acetate (4j)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 27 mg, 71% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.79-7.76 (m, 4H), 7.55 (dd, *J* = 8.7, 1.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.43(m, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.2 Hz, 1H), 7.24 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.91 (s, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.96 (s, 3H), 1.73 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.1, 145.2, 137.8, 133.9, 133.3, 133.1, 128.4, 128.3, 127.7, 127.1, 126.7, 126.4, 126.2, 124.5, 123.7, 123.6, 123.0, 121.5, 121.3, 118.8, 109.3, 36.0, 32.7, 29.3, 20.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{26}H_{25}NO_2Na$ [M+Na]⁺: 406.1777; found: 406.1782.



(Z)-1-Cyclohexyl-3-(1H-indol-3-yl)-3-methylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (4k)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as brown oil. 22 mg, 68% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.88 (s, 1H), 7.72 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.34 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.08 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.94 (d, *J* = 2.4 Hz, 1H), 5.21 (s, 1H), 2.09-2.05 (m, 1H), 1.88-1.86 (m, 2H), 1.73 (s, 3H), 1.74-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.64-1.62 (m, 2H), 1.53 (s, 6H), 1.23-1.18 (m, 2H), 1.14-1.09 (m, 2H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.4, 151.7, 137.1, 126.4, 125.6, 121.8, 121.7, 121.4, 119.3, 118.9, 111.2, 42.5,

35.0, 31.4, 29.4, 26.3, 20.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₁H₂₇NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 348.1934; found: 348.1938.



(Z)-2-[1-(1H-Indol-3-yl)cyclohexyl]-1-phenylvinyl acetate (4l)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) as yellow oil. 27 mg, 76% yield. ¹H NMR (400 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.92 (s, 1H), 7.75 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.37 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 7.33-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.22 (m, 1H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.05-7.03 (m, 2H), 6.07 (s, 1H), 2.29-2.26 (m, 2H), 2.05-2.01 (m, 2H), 1.72 (s, 3H), 1.68-1.65 (m, 6H).

¹³C NMR (100 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.6, 146.5, 137.1, 136.8, 128.6, 128.0, 126.2, 124.8, 124.7, 123.8, 121.6, 121.5,



(Z)-2-[4-(1H-Indol-3-yl)tetrahydro-2H-pyran-4-yl]-1-phenylvinyl acetate (4m)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:3) as orange oil. 21 mg, 59% yield in HFIP.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.02 (s, 1H), 7.73 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.38-7.35 (m, 3H), 7.32-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.17 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 2H), 6.09 (s, 1H), 3.91-3.82 (m, 4H), 2.37-2.25 (m, 4H), 1.76 (s, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 168.3, 147.5, 137.2, 136.4, 128.6, 128.4, 125.9, 124.9, 123.2, 122.1, 122.0, 121.1, 120.8, 119.4, 111.5, 64.9, 37.5, 37.4, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{23}H_{23}NO_3Na$ [M+Na]⁺: 384.1570; found: 384.1574.



(Z)-3-(1-Methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (4n)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 22 mg, 69% yield in HFIP.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.70 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 4H), 7.22 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 5.94 (d, *J* = 9.8 Hz, 1H), 4.05-4.00 (m, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 2.34 (s, 3H), 1.53 (d, *J* = 9.9 Hz, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.2, 144.8, 137.4, 135.2, 128.6, 128.2, 127.3, 125.1, 124.7, 123.4, 121.8, 119.8, 119.0, 118.6, 109.3, 32.8, 28.8, 20.9, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{21}H_{21}NO_2Na$ [M+Na]⁺: 342.1464; found: 342.1465.



(Z)-3-(5-Methylfuran-2-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (40)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:40) as yellow oil. 17 mg, 63% yield in HFIP.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42 (d, *J* = 8.6 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.28 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 5.92 (d, *J* = 3.0 Hz, 1H), 5.86-5.84 (m, 2H), 3.82-3.76 (m, 1H), 2.30 (s, 3H), 2.25 (s, 3H), 1.39 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 3H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.0, 155.9, 151.0, 146.1, 135.0, 128.6, 128.5, 124.7, 120.2, 106.0, 104.9, 31.1, 20.8, 19.2, 13.7. HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₇H₁₈O₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 293.1148; found: 293.1139.

(C) The procedure for reactions in the scope of propargylic esters: Unless otherwise stated, the procedure was as follows. In an argon-filled glove box, Pd(acac)₂ (24.5 mg, 0.08 mmol), P(2-furyl)₃ (22.3 mg, 0.096 mmol) and 2 mL of HFIP were charged into an oven-dried 8-mL vial. After stirring for about 30 minutes at rt, the yellow solution of Pd complex was ready for use.

To another oven-dried 4-mL vial, 0.1 mL of the Pd complex (0.004 mmol, 4 mol%) from the stock solution was added under argon, followed by the sequential addition of *N*-methyl indole (19 μ L, 0.15 mmol), formic acid (0.8 μ L, 0.02 mmol) and propargylic ester (0.1 mmol). The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the crude reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography on silica using ethyl acetate/hexanes as eluent.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl pivalate (5a)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:40) as pale-yellow oil. 29 mg, 78% yield.

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.84 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.39-7.37 (m, 2H), 7.31-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.27-7.22 (m, 2H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.88 (s, 1H), 5.98 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.69 (s, 6H), 1.20 (s, 9H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 176.2, 145.9, 137.8, 137.6, 128.4, 128.0, 127.2, 126.5, 125.1, 124.5, 124.1, 121.4, 121.2, 118.7, 109.3, 39.0, 35.8, 32.7, 29.3, 27.2.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₅H₂₉NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 398.2090; found: 398.2094.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl benzoate (5b)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:30) as white solid. 30 mg, 76% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.57 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.54 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 7.42 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.34-7.31 (m, 2H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 2H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.20 (s, 1H), 3.33 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.2, 145.0, 137.8, 136.3, 133.1, 129.9, 129.3, 128.5, 128.2, 128.1, 126.9, 126.3, 124.8, 124.5, 122.9, 121.3, 121.2, 118.6, 109.3, 35.7, 32.1, 29.7.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₇H₂₅NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 418.1777; found: 418.1781.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl 4-methoxybenzoate (5c)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 30 mg, 70% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.80 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (d, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 2H), 7.28-7.19 (m, 5H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.3 Hz, 1H), 6.82 (d, *J* = 8.8 Hz, 2H), 6.70 (s, 1H), 6.17 (s, 1H), 3.86 (s, 3H), 3.41(s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.1, 163.5, 145.0, 137.7, 136.5, 132.1, 128.5, 128.0, 126.8, 126.3, 124.8, 124.5, 123.2, 121.7, 121.3, 121.2, 118.6, 113.5, 109.3, 55.6, 35.7, 32.3, 29.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₈H₂₇NO₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 448.1883; found: 448.1890.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl 4-fluorobenzoate (5d)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:40) as yellow oil. 38 mg, 93% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.49 (dd, *J* = 8.9, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.41 (d, *J* = 6.9 Hz, 2H), 7.31-7.23 (m, 4H), 7.18 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.99 (t, *J* = 8.7 Hz, 2H), 6.67 (s, 1H), 6.19 (s, 1H), 3.36 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.8 (d, J_{CF} = 254.3 Hz), 163.2, 144.7, 137.7, 136.1, 132.5 (d, J_{CF} = 9.4 Hz), 128.6, 128.2, 126.9, 126.3, 125.4 (d, J_{CF} = 2.9 Hz), 124.8, 124.5, 122.7, 121.4, 121.2, 118.6, 115.2 (d, J_{CF} = 21.9 Hz), 109.3, 35.6, 32.1, 29.8.

¹⁹F NMR (564.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -105.3.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₇H₂₄FNO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 436.1683; found: 436.1686.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl 2-methylbenzoate (5e)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:40) as yellow oil. 27 mg, 66% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.79 (d, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 7.52 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.43 (d, *J* = 7.1 Hz, 2H), 7.40 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.20-7.14 (m, 4H), 7.09 (t, *J* = 8.0 Hz, 1H), 6.68 (s, 1H), 6.18 (s, 1H), 3.38 (s, 3H), 2.40 (s, 3H), 1.68 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.3, 145.4, 141.8, 137.7, 136.6, 132.4, 131.8, 131.3, 128.6, 128.0, 127.8, 126.7, 126.5, 125.6, 124.8, 124.4, 123.2, 121.4, 121.3, 118.6, 109.2, 35.6, 32.2, 29.7, 22.1.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for $C_{28}H_{27}NO_2Na$ [M+Na]⁺: 432.1934; found: 432.1939.



(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl furan-2-carboxylate (5f)

The product was isolated by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) as yellow oil. 18 mg, 47% yield. ¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.77 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.55 (s, 1H), 7.39 (d, *J* = 7.0 Hz, 2H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 3H), 7.21 (d, *J* = 3.6 Hz, 2H), 7.09-7.06 (m, 1H), 6.75 (s, 1H), 6.49 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.43 (dd, *J* = 3.5, 1.8 Hz, 1H), 6.15 (s, 1H), 3.52 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 156.4, 146.9, 144.0, 143.9, 137.8, 136.0, 128.6, 128.2, 126.8, 126.7, 124.9, 124.6, 122.8, 121.4, 121.2, 118.6, 118.5, 111.8, 109.2, 35.8, 32.4, 29.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₅H₂₃NO₃Na [M+Na]⁺: 408.1570; found: 408.1576.

IV. Substrate synthesis

Table S5. The scope of substituted propargylic acetates^{1,2}



Method A: Under argon, a solution of 2M n-BuLi in cyclohexane (2.5 mL, 5 mmol) was added to a solution of

terminal alkyne (5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (10 mL) at -78 °C. After the reaction was stirred for another 15 minutes, dialkyl ketone (5.5 mmol) in anhydrous THF (5 mL) was added dropwise. After the addition, the mixture was warmed to rt and quenched with aqueous NH₄Cl (5 mL) and extracted with ethyl acetate. The combined organic layers were dried over Na₂SO₄, concentrated and used directly in the next step without purification.

To a solution of the crude alcohol in dry DCM (10 mL) was added Et₃N (1 mL, 7.2 mmol), Ac₂O (0.7 mL, 7.4 mmol) and DMAP (50 mg) at rt. After stirring at rt overnight, the reaction mixture was concentrated directly under vacuum and subjected to flash chromatography using ethyl acetate/hexanes as elute.

4-Cyclohexyl-2-methylbut-3-yn-2-yl acetate

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 2.39-2.35 (m, 1H), 1.98 (s, 3H), 1.74-1.71 (m, 2H), 1.68-1.64 (m, 2H), 1.61 (s, 6H), 1.48-1.38 (m, 3H), 1.31-1.23 (m, 3H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.5, 88.7, 81.6, 72.8, 32.6, 29.5, 28.9, 26.0, 24.8, 22.3.

LC-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₃H₂₁O₂ [M+H]⁺: 209.15; found: 209.15.



Method B: Under argon, Pd(OAc)₂ (56 mg, 0.25 mmol), CuI (95.2 mg, 0.5 mmol), PPh₃ (131.1 mg, 0.5 mmol) and anhydrous DMF (10 mL) were added to a dry flask and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 10 minutes. Afterwards, aryl bromide (5 mmol), 2-methylbut-3-yn-2-ol (727 μ L, 7.5 mmol) and DIPEA (3.5 mL, 20 mmol) were added successively at room temperature, then the resulting mixture was heated at 70 °C overnight. The reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl solution and extracted with diethyl ether. The organic layers were combined, dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under the reduced pressure. The crude product was directly used in the next step.

To a solution of the crude alcohol in DCM (10 mL) was added Et₃N (1 mL, 7.2 mmol), Ac₂O (0.7 mL, 7.4 mmol) and DMAP (50 mg) at rt. After stirring at rt overnight, the reaction mixture was concentrated directly under vacuum and subjected to flash chromatography using ethyl acetate/hexanes as elute.

$$X \longrightarrow H \xrightarrow{Me} Me \xrightarrow{Me} \xrightarrow{Me} Me \xrightarrow{Me} \xrightarrow{Me} Me \xrightarrow{Me} \xrightarrow{Me} Me \xrightarrow{Me} \xrightarrow$$

Method C: Under argon, Pd(PPh₃)₂Cl₂ (140.4 mg, 0.2 mmol), CuI (38.1 mg, 0.2 mmol) and anhydrous THF (10 mL) were added to a dry flask and the mixture was stirred at room temperature for 5 minutes. Afterwards, aryl iodide (5 mmol), 2-methylbut-3-yn-2-ol (504 μ L, 5.2 mmol) and DIPEA (1.5 mL, 8.5 mmol) were added successively at rt. After stirring overnight, the reaction was quenched with saturated NH₄Cl solution and extracted with ethyl acetate. The organic layers were combined, dried with Na₂SO₄ and concentrated under the reduced pressure. The crude product was directly used in the next step.

To a solution of the crude alcohol in DCM (10 mL) was added Et₃N (1 mL, 7.2 mmol), Ac₂O (0.7 mL, 7.4 mmol) and DMAP (50 mg) at rt. After stirring at rt overnight, the reaction mixture was concentrated directly under vacuum and subjected to flash chromatography using ethyl acetate/hexanes as elute.

$$Ph \xrightarrow{Me}_{OH} Me \xrightarrow{0}_{t-Bu} Cl \xrightarrow{n-BuLi, DMAP} Ph \xrightarrow{Me}_{OPiv} Ph \xrightarrow{Me}_{OP$$

2-Methyl-4-phenylbut-3-yn-2-yl pivalate [1911590-37-8]³

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.42-7.39 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.25 (m, 3H), 1.73 (s, 6H), 1.19 (s, 9H).

2-Methyl-4-phenylbut-3-yn-2-yl benzoate [41930-23-8]⁴

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.06 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 2H), 7.55 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 4H), 7.29-7.26 (m, 3H), 1.91 (s, 6H).



2-Methyl-4-phenylbut-3-yn-2-yl 4-methoxybenzoate

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.99 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.27-7.25 (m, 3H), 6.90 (d, *J* = 9.1 Hz, 2H), 3.85 (s, 3H), 1.88 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 164.7, 163.4, 132.0, 131.8, 128.4, 128.3, 123.7, 122.9, 113.6, 90.6, 84.2, 72.8, 55.6, 29.4.

LC-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₉O₃ [M+H]⁺: 295.13; found: 295.17.



2-Methyl-4-phenylbut-3-yn-2-yl 4-fluorobenzoate

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.05 (dd, *J* = 9.0, 5.5 Hz, 2H), 7.44-7.42 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.11-7.08 (m, 2H), 1.89 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 165.8 (d, *J* = 253.2 Hz), 164.0, 132.3 (d, *J* = 9.2 Hz), 132.0, 128.5, 128.3, 127.5, 122.7, 115.5 (d, *J* = 21.9 Hz), 90.2, 84.5, 73.5, 29.4.

¹⁹F NMR (564.9 MHz, CDCl₃): δ -106.1.

LC-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₈H₁₆FO₂ [M+H]⁺: 283.11; found: 283.23.



2-Methyl-4-phenylbut-3-yn-2-yl 2-methylbenzoate

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.89 (d, *J* = 7.7 Hz, 1H), 7.46-7.44 (m, 2H), 7.38 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.28 (m, 3H), 7.25-7.23 (m, 2H), 2.62 (s, 3H), 1.89 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 166.2, 140.0, 132.0, 131.9, 131.8, 130.8, 130.6, 128.4, 128.3, 125.8, 122.8, 90.4, 84.3, 73.2, 29.4, 21.9.

LC-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₉H₁₉O₂ [M+H]⁺: 279.14; found: 279.17.



2-Methyl-4-phenylbut-3-yn-2-yl furan-2-carboxylate

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.56 (t, *J* = 0.9 Hz, 1H), 7.45-7.43 (m, 2H), 7.28-7.26 (m, 3H), 7.15 (d, *J* = 3.5 Hz, 1H), 6.48 (dd, *J* = 3.4, 1.6 Hz, 1H), 1.88 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 157.2, 146.2, 145.3, 132.0, 128.5, 128.3, 122.7, 117.8, 111.9, 89.8, 84.7, 73.9, 29.4.

LC-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₁₆H₁₅O₃ [M+H]⁺: 255.10; found: 255.17.

V. Scale-up synthesis and product derivatization



In an argon-filled glovebox, Pd(acac)₂ (67.0 mg, 0.22 mmol), P(2-furyl)₃ (61.3 mg, 0.264 mmol) and 5.5 mL of HFIP were charged into an oven-dried 20-mL vial. After stirring for about 30 minutes at rt, *N*-methylindole (1.0 mL, 8.25 mmol), formic acid (42 μ L, 1.1 mmol) and propargylic acetate **1a** (1.11 g, 5.5 mmol) were added sequentially to the reaction mixture. The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the crude reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography on silica (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:20) to afford **3a** in 72% yield (1.32 g, Z/E > 20:1).



The reaction condition is modified based on the reported procedure.⁵ To a 10-mL reaction tube in an argon-filled glove box, **3b** (41.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) and phenylboronic acid (18.3 mg, 0.15 mmol) were dissolved in DME/H₂O (0.8 mL/0.2 mL), followed by the addition of Pd(PPh₃)₄ (5.8 mg, 0.005 mmol) and potassium carbonate (27.6 mg, 0.2 mmol). The reaction tube was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 90 °C After stirring overnight, the reaction mixture was quenched with brine and extracted with ethyl acetate three times. The combined organic layers were then dried over Na₂SO₄, filtered and concentrated under reduced pressure. The crude product was purified on silica by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:5) as pale-yellow oil. 25 mg, 61% yield.

(Z)-3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-5-phenyl-1*H*-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (6a)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.01 (s, 1H), 7.62 (d, *J* = 8.4 Hz, 2H), 7.48 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.42-7.38 (m, 4H), 7.35 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.27 (m, 3H), 7.25 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 6.90 (s, 1H), 6.01 (s, 1H), 3.78 (s, 3H), 1.90 (s, 3H), 1.70 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.1, 145.2, 142.9, 137.4, 136.7, 132.2, 128.7, 128.6, 128.1, 127.6, 127.1, 126.4, 126.3, 125.3, 124.9, 123.9, 121.4, 119.8, 109.6, 36.0, 32.8, 29.4, 20.6.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₈H₂₇NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 432.1934; found: 432.1937.



To a 10-mL reaction tube in an argon-filled glove box, **3b** (41.2 mg, 0.1 mmol), Pd(PhCN)₂Cl₂ (1.2 mg, 0.003 mmol), P(*t*-Bu)₃·HBF₄ (1.7 mg, 0.006 mmol), and CuI (0.4 mg, 0.002 mmol) were dissolved in dioxane (0.4 mL). Diisopropylamine (17 μ L, 0.12 mmol) and phenylacetylene (13 μ L, 0.12 mmol) were then added by microsyringe, and the reaction was stirred for 18 hours at rt. After complete consumption of **3b** (TLC monitoring), the solution was diluted with ethyl acetate and evaporated to dryness. The crude product was purified on silica by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10) to give **6b** (34 mg, 78% yield) as yellow oil.

(Z)-3-Methyl-3-[1-methyl-5-(phenylethynyl)-1H-indol-3-yl]-1-phenylbut-1-en-1-yl acetate (6b)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.96 (s, 1H), 7.54 (d, *J* = 8.5 Hz, 2H), 7.40-7.37 (m, 3H), 7.34-7.28 (m, 5H), 7.26-7.23 (m, 2H), 6.89 (s, 1H), 6.02 (s, 1H), 3.75 (s, 3H), 1.85 (s, 3H), 1.67 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 169.0, 145.3, 137.5, 136.4, 131.6, 128.6, 128.4, 128.2, 127.8, 126.6, 126.1, 125.8, 125.3, 125.1, 124.9, 124.2, 123.8, 113.2, 109.5, 91.6, 87.1, 35.8, 32.8, 29.5, 20.5.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₃₀H₂₇NO₂Na [M+Na]⁺: 456.1934; found: 456.1933.



The compound is prepared according to the reported procedure with some modifications.⁶ In an argon-filled glove box, Ni(PCy₃)₂Cl₂ (6.9 mg, 0.01 mmol), phenyl boronic acid (61.0 mg, 0.5 mmol) and K₃PO₄ (191.0 mg, 0.9 mmol) were charged into a dry 10-mL Schlenk tube, followed by the addition of **3a** (33.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) and toluene (1 mL). The reaction mixture was sealed tightly with a Teflon-lined screw cap and stirred on a hotplate maintained at 120 °C for 48 h. After cooling down to room temperature, the crude product was purified on silica by flash chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:70) to give **6c** (20 mg, 57% yield) as colorless oil.

1-Methyl-3-(2-methyl-4,4-diphenylbut-3-en-2-yl)-1H-indole (6c)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.74 (d, *J* = 7.9 Hz, 1H), 7.24-7.17 (m, 7H), 7.11 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.06 (t, *J* = 7.2 Hz, 1H), 7.01-6.99 (m, 2H), 6.68 (d, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 2H), 6.56 (s, 1H), 6.38 (s, 1H), 3.57 (s, 3H), 1.52 (s, 6H). ¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 144.0, 140.7, 140.1, 139.1, 137.7, 129.8, 128.1, 127.1, 126.9, 126.8, 126.7, 126.0, 124.9, 124.2, 121.4, 121.1, 118.4, 109.1, 36.8, 32.4, 30.7.

LC-MS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₆H₂₅NNa [M+Na]⁺: 374.19; found: 374.27.



To a mixture of **3a** (33.3 mg, 0.1 mmol) and K_2CO_3 (16.6 mg, 0.12 mmol) was added dry MeOH (0.5 mL). After stirring at 60 °C for 2 hours, the reaction mixture was cooled to room temperature and concentrated under reduced pressure. The product **6d** was then purified by silica gel chromatography (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:60) as colorless oil. 26 mg, 89% yield.

3-Methyl-3-(1-methyl-1H-indol-3-yl)-1-phenylbutan-1-one (6d)

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.83 (d, *J* = 8.1 Hz, 1H), 7.76 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 2H), 7.44 (t, *J* = 7.4 Hz, 1H), 7.30-7.25 (m, 3H), 7.20 (t, *J* = 7.6 Hz, 1H), 7.10 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 6.76 (s, 1H), 3.68 (s, 3H), 3.46 (s, 2H), 1.61 (s, 6H).

¹³C NMR (150 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 200.4, 138.6, 137.9, 132.5, 128.3, 128.2, 126.1, 125.4, 123.4. 121.3, 121.0, 118.6, 109.7, 49.6, 34.9, 32.7, 28.8.

HRMS (ESI): Calcd for C₂₀H₂₁NONa [M+Na]⁺: 314.1515; found: 314.1517.

VI. Mechanistic studies

Table S6. Control experiments



entry	variations from standard conditions	conversion of 1a	yield of 3a	yield of 3a'
1	none	100%	86%	0%
2	without palladium catalyst	100%	0%	49%
3	without phosphine ligand	100%	25%	30%
4	without HCO ₂ H	100%	54%	20%
5	without Pd(acac) ₂ and P(2-furyl) ₃	100%	0%	56%
6	without Pd(acac) ₂ , P(2-furyl) ₃ and HCO ₂ H	100%	0%	58%

1-Methyl-3-(2-methyl-4-phenylbut-3-yn-2-yl)-1*H*-indole (3a') [1084888-36-7]⁷

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 8.01 (d, *J* = 7.8 Hz, 1H), 7.44 (d, *J* = 5.4 Hz, 2H), 7.32 (d, *J* = 8.3 Hz, 1H), 7.29-7.24 (m, 4H), 7.14 (t, *J* = 7.5 Hz, 1H), 7.01 (s, 1H), 3.76 (s, 3H), 1.82 (s, 6H).



Scheme S1. Competition study of acyloxylation process

General procedure of the reaction shown in Scheme S1: in an argon-filled glovebox, $Pd(acac)_2$ (1.2 mg, 0.004 mmol), $P(2-furyl)_3$ (1.1 mg, 0.0048 mmol) and 0.1 mL of HFIP were charged into an oven-dried 4-mL vial. After stirring for about 15 minutes at rt, *N*-methylindole (19 µL, 0.15 mmol), carboxylic acid (0.1 mmol) and propargylic acetate **1a** (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added sequentially to the reaction mixture. The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the crude reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography on silica (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:60).

Result: The exclusive formation of enol acetate **3a** indicated that acyloxylation of alkynyl moiety on **1a** is an intramolecular process.





General procedure of the reaction shown in Scheme S2-A: in an argon-filled glovebox, $Pd(acac)_2$ (1.2 mg, 0.004 mmol), $P(2-furyl)_3$ (1.1 mg, 0.0048 mmol) and 0.1 mL of HFIP were charged into an oven-dried 4-mL vial. After stirring for about 15 minutes at rt, formic acid (0.8 µL, 0.02 mmol) and propargylic acetate **1a** (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added sequentially to the reaction mixture. The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a

heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for two hours, aliquots from the reaction mixture were evaluated by GC-MS. The crude product was then purified by flash chromatography on silica (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:10), affording 3a'' in 80% yield as yellow oil. For a control experiment without palladium catalyst and phosphine ligand, no enone product (3a'') was detected based on the crude ¹H-NMR.

3-Methyl-1-phenylbut-2-en-1-one (3a") [5650-07-7]⁸

¹H NMR (600 MHz, CDCl₃): δ 7.94-7.92 (m, 2H), 7.53-7.50 (m, 1H), 7.46-7.43 (m, 2H), 6.75 (hept, *J* = 1.3 Hz, 1H), 2.21 (s, 3H), 2.02 (s, 3H).

General procedure of the reaction shown in Scheme S2-B: in an argon-filled glovebox, $Pd(acac)_2$ (1.2 mg, 0.004 mmol), $P(2-furyl)_3$ (1.1 mg, 0.0048 mmol) and 0.1 mL of HFIP were charged into an oven-dried 4-mL vial. After stirring for about 15 minutes at rt, propargylic acetate **1a** (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) was added, and the resulting solution stirred at 30 °C for 2 h. Afterwards, *N*-methylindole (19 µL, 0.15 mmol) and formic acid (0.8 µL, 0.02 mmol) were added sequentially. The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the crude reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography on silica (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:60), affording **6d** in 53% yield as colorless oil.



Scheme S3. The reactivity of propargylic acetate **1a** with other nucleophiles under the standard conditions *General procedure of the reaction shown in Scheme S3*: in an argon-filled glovebox, $Pd(acac)_2$ (1.2 mg, 0.004 mmol), $P(2-furyl)_3$ (1.1 mg, 0.0048 mmol) and 0.1 mL of HFIP were charged into an oven-dried 4-mL vial. After stirring for about 15 minutes at rt, nucleophile (0.15 mmol), formic acid (0.8 µL, 0.02 mmol) and propargylic acetate **1a** (20.2 mg, 0.1 mmol) were added sequentially to the reaction mixture. The vial was sealed with a screw cap and placed in a heating block maintained at 30 °C. After stirring for 24 hours, the crude reaction mixture was purified by flash chromatography on silica (ethyl acetate/hexanes 1:60).

VII. X-ray crystallographic data

Deposition number CCDC 2221866

ORTEP of 4a, thermal ellipsoids are shown at 50% probability.



VIII. Reference

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IX. NMR spectra



TSH-N5-301 AV400 13C







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TSH-N5-73-4 13C









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220 210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 f1 (ppm)



TSH-N6-83-4 13C





TSH-N6-89-2 13C













0 110 f1 (ppm)



) 110 f1 (ppm)











4c





—1.870 —1.661









20 10 0 -10 -20 -30 -40 -50 -60 -70 -80 -90 -100 -110 -120 -130 -140 -150 -160 -170 -180 -190 -200 -210 -22(f1 (ppm)









---3.776










<1.543 <1.532

---2.337







120 110 100 f1 (ppm) 210 200 S75



210 200 190 180 170 160 150 140 130 120 110 100 90 80 70 60 50 40 30 20 10 0 S76¹⁰ f1 (ppm)





f1 (ppm) ò S78























f1 (ppm)



